

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**[0037]** In the preferred embodiment, shown in FIG. 2, the protective article including the frame 1 is detachable from the sports boot, enabling the user to adapt the boot to the sporting activity. Thus, the snowboarder can equip his/her boot with the device if it is desired to travel on any type of snow or on hilly ground, or the device can be removed if it is desired to travel along a track covered with packed snow. In this embodiment, the frame 1 is positioned outside the boot CH, in the area of the front portion of the envelope O which, in this case, is the upper O, and possibly the tongue 50 of the boot CH. As mentioned previously, it is imperative to firmly maintain the frame 1 on the boot CH. The frame includes supports 100, 101, or support areas, on both sides of the bending zone 2. The front support 100 is positioned so as to be inserted, at the base of the tongue 50, between the tongue 50 and the lace keepers 41 as well as the lace 40.

**[0040]** To guarantee stability of the bending abutment, with respect to the bending load, the frame 1 is fixed on a base or membrane 3 that is flexible and substantially inextensible. The fixing is obtained by appropriate means such as seams 152 that extend at least along the ends of the supports 100, 101. The seams 152 can extend along the entire periphery of the frame 1.